

REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for considering the present application. In the Office Action dated March 29, 2004, claims 1-20 are pending in the application. The Examiner has divided the claims into three groupings: Group I claims 1-6, Group II claims 7-16, and Group III claims 17-20. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the grouping of the claims.

Applicants believe that claims 1-16 belong to the same group. Claim 1 is directed to a retainer for a first carrier board and a second carrier board. The retainer has a retainer body with specific relationships of the whole. The retainer further includes a first snap disposed on the first retainer side engaging the first carrier board and a second snap disposed on the second retainer side engaging said second carrier board. Claim 7 is directed to a connector assembly that includes a connector assembly having a first carrier board and a second carrier board and a retainer body that includes the first snap and second snap. Claim 8 includes the other portion of claim 1 referring to the hole and a middle portion. Applicants respectfully submit that Groups I and II should be considered together. As the Examiner states, each of these are classified in a different area. However, a complete examination of either one would include identical search areas since each of the devices includes the retainer with snaps. Applicants therefore respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the groupings and examine Groups I and II together.

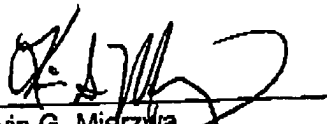
Applicants agree that Group III is directed to an imaging system. However, the imaging system described in claim 17 includes identical language to that of claim 7. That is, the first carrier board, the second carrier board and the retainer body have an identical relationship to that of claim 7. Claim 17, however, includes other information including a detector module, data acquisition system and a circuit board recited therein. Applicants also therefore respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the restriction of claim 3 as well. Applicants believe that a thorough examination of claim 17 would also include the subclasses and classes of claims 1 and 2. Applicants therefore respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the restriction requirements.

Applicants provisionally elect Group II, claims 7-16, for examination in this case.

Should the Examiner have any further questions or comments, the Examiner is directed to contact the undersigned directly.

Please charge any fees required in the filing of this amendment to deposit account 50,2401.

Respectfully submitted,



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